after-sales servicing of solar energy systems, and (iv) support for capacity building and to create awareness through print and electronic media about the solar energy systems and their benefits.

Special package for New and Renewable Energy

947. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is having any proposal to increase the power generation through the Ministry by providing special package; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) A target for capacity addition of 15,000 MW (14,000 MW grid-interactive and 1,000 MW off-grid/ distributed) from different renewable energy sources - wind, biomass, small hydo and solar, has been set for the 11th Plan period. To achieve this target, the Government has already put in place an attractive package (mix of fiscal and financial incentives) to encourage private investment in the sector. The same includes capital/interest subsidies, accelerated depreciation, nil/ concessional excise and customs duties. Further benefit under Section 80-1A of Income Tax Act 1961 is available to undertakings setup for the generation or generation and distribution of Renewable power in India, This apart, preferential tariff for grid interactive renewable power is being given in most potential States.

Viability of Solar Power Generation

948. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of power generated in the country from solar energy and the cost per mega watt;

(b) the details of projects under implementation;

(c) whether solar power generation is economically viable;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of research in the country to make solar power cheap?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) A total of 32 grid interactive solar photovoltaic power plants, with aggregate capacity of 2.1 Megawatt, have been installed in the country with financial support from the Government. The estimated cost of solar power plants is in the range of Rs. 17 crore to Rs. 20 crore per mega watt.

(b) A two mega watt capacity grid interactive solar photovoltaic power plant is being set up by West Bengal Green Energy Development Corporation Limited in Asansol district in West Bengal. In addition, Karnataka Power Corporation Limited is also setting up a mega watt capacity solar photovoltaic power plant in Raichur district at the tail-end of the grid.